

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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R 200520Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9441
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AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SINGAPORE 0302

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP, (WOLFF, LESTER)
SUBJECT: CODEL WOLFF PRESS CONFERENCE IN SINGAPORE

REF: SINGAPORE 0266

1. LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE OF CODEL WOLFF'S JANUARY 14 PRESS CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTED WOLFF'S PROPOSAL FOR ASIAN- PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY AND HIS AFFIRMATION THAT U.S. INTENDS TO REMAIN A PACIFIC POWER. OTHER TOPICS RAISED WERE U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH KOREA, FIGHTING BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM, PHILIPPINE BASES AND BURDEN-SHARING, TRADE PROTECTIONISM,

U.S. JAPAN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, NARCOTICS TRAFFIC, AND FUTURE OF OPIC. REACTION TO PRESS CONFERENCE, AS TO OTHER PUBLICIZED ACTIVITIES OF CODEL WOLFF, WAS FAVORABLE. DURING 50-MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE WOLFF AND CONGRESSMEN GUYER AND MITCHELL MADE BRIEF OPENING STATEMENTS AND FIELDDED 12 QUESTIONS. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS OF SIGNIFICANT REMARKS MADE BY WOLFF AND, IN PARAGRAPHS 5 AND 8 ONLY, BY MITCHELL:

2. "THE UNITED STATES IS A PACIFIC NATION AND INTENDS TO REMAIN A PACIFIC NATION, AND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AFFAIRS OF ASIA
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AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC. IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE WILL INTERFERE, BUT WE WILL PARTICIPATE AS A PACIFIC NATION."

3. "...DURING THIS TOUR WE HAVE PROPOSED TO THE VARIOUS NATIONS WHERE WE HAVE MET WITH THEIR LEADERS AND WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS THAT THERE BE SET UP AN ASIAN AND PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARIANS ASSEMBLY, SPECIFICALLY TARGETTED AT LOOKING AT PROBLEMS

THAT ARE PECULIAR TO THE AREA. AND WE HOPE TO, UPON OUR RETURN, BECAUSE OF THE RECEPTION THAT WE HAVE OBTAINED FROM THE VARIOUS PEOPLE THAT WE'VE TALKED TO, INCLUDING PEOPLE IN THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT, WE HOPE TO PROJECT THIS TO OUR CONGRESS AND TO SET UP AN ORGANIZATION THAT WILL REGULARLY MEET TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL CONCERN."

4. "...THE MERE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES IS REASSIGNING ITS BURDENS AND REDEPLOYING ITS FORCES DOES NOT INDICATE A LESSENING OF INTEREST ON OUR PART OR A FEELING ON OUR PART THAT THE SECURITY OF THIS AREA WILL BE IMPAIRED BY THE WITHDRAWAL OF OUR FORCES FROM SOUTH KOREA...THE UNITED STATES IS RENEGOTIATING ITS BASE POSITION IN THE PHILIPPINES, INTENDS TO MAINTAIN ITS BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES, INTENDS TO MAINTAIN ITS OPERATIONS ON A STABLE BASIS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, NOT CONTRIBUTE TO ANY BUILDUP IN THAT AREA, BUT WE INTEND TO REMAIN IN THE PACIFIC AS, AGAIN, A PACIFIC NATION."

5. CONGRESSMAN MITCHELL: "THERE'S NO LACK OF INTEREST IN MAINTAINING A STRONG AMERICAN FORCE IN THE PACIFIC. THERE IS SOME CONFUSION, I THINK, TO PEOPLE OF OTHER COUNTRIES WHEN WE SPEAK WITH MANY VOICES, WHICH WE DO ON MOST SUBJECTS. THERE IS SOME FEELING IN CONGRESS THAT MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THE FORCES IN SOUTH KOREA. WE HAVE MANY OPINIONS ON PRETTY NEARLY EVERY ISSUE. BUT WE HAVE A GREAT STAKE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. OUR TRADE WITH THIS PART OF THE WORLD, IN ASIA, IS GREATER UNCLASSIFIED

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THAN OUR TRADE WITH EUROPE, FOR EXAMPLE. WE HAVE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN INVESTMENT HERE. SO WE'RE CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO PULL OUT OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. WE'RE GOING TO REMAIN HERE. AND ONE OF THE ENCOURAGEMENTS WE RECEIVED FROM YOUR LEADERS WAS THAT THEY WOULD LIKE A STRONG AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, AND WE'LL TAKE THAT MESSAGE BACK."

6. "I DO FEEL-- I SAID IN THE PHILIPPINES -- THAT THE UNITED STATES CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AS ATLAS, HOLDING UP THE WORLD. WHERE NATIONS CAN HAVE A STAKE IN THEIR DEFENSE, THE BURDENS SHOULD BE SHARED. NOW, I BELIEVE IT WAS SECRETARY ENRILE WHO CRITICIZED ME FOR SAYING THAT THE FILIPINOS SHOULD PAY FOR PART OF THE COST OF MAINTAINING THOSE BASES. NOW, ONE THING IS VERY APPARENT. AND THAT IS, IF THE BASES ARE NOT THERE TO EQUALLY PROTECT THE PHILIPPINES AND PROTECT THE UNITED STATES, I DON'T THINK THEY WILL BE IN THE PHILIPPINES FOR VERY LONG... WE HAVE JUST CONCLUDED A TRADE NEGOTIATION WITH JAPAN. MANY NATIONS OF THE WORLD--OF THE WORLD'S ECONOMIES, HAVE PROSPERED VERY WELL AS A RESULT OF THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS BORNE THE COMPLETE BURDEN FOR THE COST OF THE DEFENSE OF THOSE NATIONS. IT WOULD SEEM TO ME THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO HELP THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ECONOMY AND TO SEE TO IT THAT THE

DOLLAR DRAIN IS NOT AS GREAT AS IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST,
BECAUSE REGARDLESS OF HOW WE LOOK AT THE INDIVIDUAL CON-
TRIBUTIONS THAT ARE MADE, UNLESS THERE IS A SHARING OF
THE BURDEN THE UNITED STATES IS GOING TO BE UNABLE TO CON-
TINUE TO PROVIDE THE FULL COST OF THE DEFENSE OF MANY OF THE
NATIONS OF THE WORLD. THEREFORE IT IS INCUMBENT UPON NATIONS,
WHEREEVER THEY POSSIBLY CAN, TO SHARE THAT BURDEN.... I DO
BELIEVE THAT THE FILIPINOS HAVE BEEN GREAT PARTNERS WITH THE
UNITED STATES. I'M ANXIOUS TO SEE THAT THEY CONTINUE TO BE.
THERE'S A RESPONSIBILITY THAT THE PARTNERS HAVE, AND I BELIEVE
THAT IN OUR SPEAKING WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS --SECRETARY -
THERE WAS AN UNDERSTANDING THAT WE HAVE EQUAL RESPONSIBILITIES.
I'M NOT ASKING THEM TO PAY US FOR BEING THERE. I'M SAYING
THAT WHEREEVER WE DO HAVE A DEFENSE COMMITMENT, THAT I THINK
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THAT IT'S TIME THAT THAT DEFENSE COMMITMENT BURDEN WAS SHARED.
AND PERHAPS MAYBE MY TARGET IS NOT THE PHILIPPINES, BUT
MAYBE IT MIGHT BE OVER IN EUROPE. IT COSTS THE UNITED STATES
FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR EVERY MAN THAT IT HAS OVERSEAS.
AND IF YOU CONSIDER THE FACT THAT WE HAVE SOME FIVE HUNDRED
THOUSAND PEOPLE OVERSEAS TODAY, AND YOU MULTIPLY THE FIFTY
THOUSAND BY THE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND, YOU COME UP WITH TWENTY-
FIVE BILLION. TWENTY-FIVE BILLION IS THE EXACT DEFICIT THAT THE
UNITED STATES HAS IN ITS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS."
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7. "OUR OBJECTIVE IN GOING TO THE PHILIPPINES WAS TO DISCUSS FIRST-HAND WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS, SECRETARY ENRILE, AND SECRETARY ROMULO THE LIMITATIONS THAT THERE MAY BE AND TO SPEAK REALISTICALLY ABOUT WHAT WE CAN HOPE TO GET THROUGH THE CONGRESS. I DO THINK THAT-- THERE WILL BE NO QUESTION IN MY MIND THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO WORK OUT A SUCCESSFUL PACKAGE WITH THE PHILIPPINES ON A REDUCTION OF THE SIZE OF OUR BASES. WE DON'T NEED THE SIZE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT THAT WE HAVE THERE TODAY BECAUSE OF A REDUCED NECESSITY IN THE AREA. THEREFORE, OUR NAVAL FACILITIES AND OUR AIR FACILITIES, I BELIEVE, WILL BE --THE AGREEMENT THAT WILL BE WORKED OUT WILL BE EQUITABLE TO BOTH THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES, AND ON THAT BASIS I BELIEVE WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE CONGRESS."

8. CONGRESSMAN MITCHELL: "A VERY IMPORTANT POINT WAS MADE AT ONE OF OUR MEETINGS, AND THAT WAS TO THE EFFECT THAT WE REALLY SHOULDN'T USE JUST PER CAPITAL INCOME AS A BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION OF WHAT COUNTRIES SHOULD GET WHAT AID. BECAUSE SINGAPORE IS A CITY STATE, AND IT DOESN'T HAVE LARGE RESOURCES OF LAND WHERE PEOPLE CAN RAISE THEIR OWN FOOD. IT'S POSSIBLE IN SOME PARTS OF OUR WORLD --IN MANY PARTS OF OUR WORLD--PEOPLE HAVE ALMOST NO INCOME, BUT THEY LIVE REASONABLY WELL BECAUSE THEY HAVE A GREAT AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE. SO WE'RE TAKING THIS MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED

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BACK TO OUR OFFICIALS, THAT THE TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLAR AVERAGE PER CAPITA INCOME IN SINGAPORE DOES NOT NECESSARILY EQUATE WITH THE PER CAPITA INCOME OF SOME NATION THAT HAS FINE AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES. FROM LISTENING T THEM AND UNDERSTANDING THEIR REASONING, I THINK THERE SHOULD BE GREAT FLEXIBILITY IN THIS PROGRAM SO THAT WE CAN MAKE PERSONAL JUDGEMENTS IN SITUATIONS LIKE THIS THAT ARE RATHER UNIQUE, WHERE THERE IS A SMALL LAND AREA AND A LARGE POPULATION."

9. "I DO NOT FEEL THAT THE UNITED STATES IS GOING PROTECTIONIST. I FEEL THAT THE UNITED STATES CAN COMPETE ON A VERY FAVORABLE BASIS WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD, AND THAT'S WHAT OUR COUNTRY IS ALL ABOUT. I DO THINK, HOWEVER, THAT THERE HAVE BEEN CERTAIN CASES WHERE THERE HAS BEEN A PARTICULAR EFFORT MADE BY INDIVIDUAL NATIONS OF DUMPING THEIR PRODUCTS INTO THE UNITED STATES, THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST TAKE MEASURES TO PROTECT AGAINST. IT IS NOT IN THE NATURE OF AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD ATTEMPT AT PROTECTIONISM, BUT IT IS AN ATTEMPT TO VERY BASICALLY REACT TO CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES THAT ARE ACTUALLY--TAKE THE SITUATION OUT OF THE COMPETITIVE REALM. NOW, THERE ARE CERTAIN INDUSTRIES IN THE UNITED STATES THAT HAVE BEEN VERY SEVERELY HIT BY OUTSIDE COMPETITION. THERE WILL BE A TEST MADE BY VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS WHO REPRESENT THOSE AREAS TO TRY TO PROTECT

THOSE AREAS. BUT BY AND LARGE I DO NOT SEE THE UNITED STATES IN THE POSITION OF RESTRICTING TRADE. TO THE CONTRARY, I SEE US ATTEMPTING TO FOSTER TRADE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. IT IS CERTAINLY MUCH BETTER FOR US TO HAVE A TRADING PARTNER THAN TO HAVE TO GIVE AID TO ANY SPECIFIC NATION."

10. "WHEN I MADE THE REMARKS IN THE PHILIPPINES RELATIVE TO THE BASES, I HAD SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO JAPAN. I THINK THAT THERE COULD BE GREATER BURDEN SHARING THERE, BY THE JAPANESE, WHICH WOULD REDUCE OUR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS WITHOUT HURTING THE JAPANESE
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IN ANY FASHION, OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT THEY ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEFENSE OF THEIR NATION WITHOUT, NUMBER ONE, GETTING INVOLVED IN THE ARMS RACE. BECAUSE ONCE THEY START ALONG IN HANDLING THEIR OWN DEFENSE, THEY ARE GOING TO BE IN BIG BUSINESS, AND PERHAPS THE DIFFERENTIALS THAT EXIST ARE GOING TO UNDERMINE THEIR OWN ECONOMY, AS IT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROBLEMS THAT WE HAVE HAD AS A NATION. SO THEREFORE I FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT WHENEVER THERE CAN BE A REDUCTION IN THE TRADE BARRIERS THAT EXIST, THAT INCLUDES IN OUR OWN COUNTRY, THE UNITED STATES, I THINK THAT WE AND OUR BUSINESSMEN SHOULD HAVE SUFFICIENT INGENUITY--NOT IN THE QUESTION OF COMPARISON OF LABOR COSTS, BUT IN TECHNOLOGY AND THE LIKE--TO BE ABLE TO MEET COMPETITION WHEREVER IT EXISTS IN THE WORLD. AND I THINK THAT OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD SHOULD BE IN A SIMILAR POSITION. IF WE HOPE TO HAVE TRULY A WORLD WITHOUT BARRIERS, THEN I THINK THAT TRADE IS ONE AREA THAT HAS TO COME ALONG WITH THAT."

11. "I WAS THE ORIGINAL SPONSOR OF OPIC. IT WAS SPONSORED BY SENATOR JAVITS OF NEW YORK, AND IT WAS CALLED THE JAVITS-WOLFF AMENDMENT THAT BROUGHT OPIC INTO BEING. I STRONGLY SUPPORT OPIC BECAUSE I THINK THAT THIS IS A MEANS OF PERMITTING AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS TO COMPETE IN THE WORLD'S MARKETS. IT IS NOT SUBSIDIZING IN ANY WAY AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS, AS SOME NATIONS DO. BUT WHAT IT DOES IS THAT IT GIVES THEM GUARANTEES AGAINST POLITICAL RISKS THAT WOULD DISCOURAGE PEOPLE FROM PARTICIPATING IF IT WERE NOT AVAILABLE. THEREFORE I THINK IT IS INCUMBENT UPON OUR NATION TO CONTINUE THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT WILL BE INCREASED OR NOT. BUT I CAN SAY ONE THING--THAT I DO FEEL THAT IT WILL BE CONTINUED BECAUSE IT IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE."

HOLDRIDGE

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